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## Legislative Alert: The Long-Term Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2011 (S. 1786)

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## Legislative Alert: The Long-Term Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2011 (S. 1786)

### Abstract

[Excerpt] On behalf of the AFL-CIO I am writing to urge you to oppose S. 1786 - the Long-Term Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2011 - which will be offered by the Republican minority as an alternative to S. 1769 - the Rebuild American Jobs Act.

### Keywords

AFL-CIO, Legislative Alert, The Long-Term Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2011, S. 1786

### Comments

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EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

## ***LEGISLATIVE ALERT!***

(202) 637-5057

November 3, 2011

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the AFL-CIO I am writing to urge you to oppose S. 1786 – the Long-Term Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2011 – which will be offered by the Republican minority as an alternative to S. 1769 – the Rebuild American Jobs Act.

S. 1786 includes measures that would up-end the entire regulatory system in this country making it impossible for the government to protect workers and the public from workplace hazards, unsafe drugs, dirty air and water, and Wall Street abuses.

The bill incorporates S. 299-Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS Act) – a radical measure that would require Congress to vote to approve all major rules before they can go into effect. Rules not affirmatively acted on by both the House and Senate within 70 legislative days would die. Under the REINS Act politics, not scientific judgment or expertise of agencies would dictate all regulatory actions. Corporate opposition and influence would swamp the public's interest, and block needed protections.

This measure is impractical, unworkable and unnecessary. Congress neither has the time nor expertise to consider and act on detailed, technical and scientific issues. Moreover, Congress already has the authority to disapprove rules through the Congressional Review Act or block their implementation by withholding funding.

The Republican alternative also incorporates the Regulatory Time-Out Act – a regulatory moratorium that would suspend the effective date of all significant regulations for one year. This sweeping provision would delay the implementation of hundreds of rules, including rules to implement the Dodd-Frank Financial Reform Act and the Affordable Care Act. It would delay important worker safety rules, including rules to protect coal miners from black lung, and rules to strengthen worker rights. This measure is nothing more than a back-door means to block the implementation of these major legislative initiatives and to suspend other safeguards needed to protect workers and the public.

These so called “regulatory reform” measures have nothing to do with creating jobs for the millions who are out of work. They are simply an attempt to use the jobs crisis to rollback 40 years of progress in protecting the public from harm and stopping corporate abuses.

The AFL-CIO strongly urges you to oppose S. 1786, and to support S. 1769 the Rebuild American Jobs Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Samuel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William Samuel, Director  
Government Affairs Department